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REPLY UNDER

37 C.F.R. § 1.116

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

PATENT

0020-4771P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SANO et al. Conf.: 8796
Appl. No.: 09/701,303 Group: 1615
Filed: November 28, 2000 Examiner: R. M. JOYNES
For: CONTROLLED RELEASE PREPARATIONS HAVING
MULTI-LAYER STRUCTURE

REPLY AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Office Action dated February 26, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A preparation which comprises an outermost layer wherein a water-soluble drug is dispersed in a carrier comprising a biologically non-degradable hydrophobic polymer material, and one or more inner layer(s) wherein a water-soluble drug, which is different or different in concentration thereof from

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